

PRO-DAIRY

CLIMATE CHANGE

By Julie Berry

Prepare for climate change

PRO-DAIRY held a Dairy Environmental Systems and Climate Adaptation conference on Cornell's campus in July that drew international attendance. "The conference was exceptionally well organized, and with over 50 speakers, covered all of the main topics associated with dairy systems and climate change," said Michael P. Hoffmann Associate Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. "I hope that the conference raised the profile of the enormous risks posed by a rapidly warming climate."

The Manger from PRO-DAIRY shows how climate change impacts farms.

"We're already seeing farmers adapting to the increasingly wetter spring conditions by changing seed varieties and building more manure storage capacity, and this will continue", said PRO-DAIRY's Curt Gooch, who co-organized the conference. "It will be even more important to put heat mitigation strategies in the barn if you're not already doing so."

Conference presentations were recorded and are available online at http://www.manuremanagement.cornell.edu/Pages/Animal_Ag_Climate/AACG_Resources.html. This month's *The Manager* brings home

Farmers were urged to be proactive as the rate of climate change is anticipated to increase as society is poised to emit more carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. Growing seasons could increase by a week, with four to five inches more precipitation, and a 10 percent increase in big events. Most of the increase will be

precipitation, including rain, even in the winter, said Art DeGaetano, Professor, Cornell Earth and Atmospheric Sciences.

"Farmers are changing production practices, but those changes are reactive," said Bill Hohenstein, Director, USDA Climate Change Program. "Climate has increased two degrees per decade. What we're expecting to see over the next decade is different. The rate is changing. At that point reactive changes are not going to work. Climate change will not be well-behaved. There will be more extreme events. Water is a critical resource and is going to be an acute challenge."

Genetics, nutritional needs, engineering of barns, herd management, grazing, crops, breeding for tolerance of drought and heat, planting dates, soil management/health conservation practices and tile drainage are all management practices to review.

to you some of the advice presented, and features articles by some of the conferences speakers on topics ranging from crop insurance to manure management. UC-Davis Professor Frank Mitloehner addresses common myths about agriculture's contribution to climate change. Penn State Extension Agricultural Engineering Educator Dan McFarland reviews heat stress abatement techniques for dairy cattle. University of Georgia climatologist Pam Knox outlines the differences between weather and climate. Jim Jensen, Senior Bioenergy and Alternative Fuels Specialist with the Washington State University Energy Program, provides an overview of the current trends and opportunities in the carbon credit market. And, we send off Jennifer Pronto with well-wishes. Jenny was a Research Associate in PRO-DAIRY Program's Environmental Systems Group and was instrumental in helping organize the conference and wrote an article on sustainability. She is moving with her family to Chile.

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Save the date!

For more information, visit: <http://prodairy.cals.cornell.edu/conferences/nedpa-conference>

2016 NEDPA Conference

Coordinated by the PRO-DAIRY Program at Cornell University and presented by the Northeast Dairy Producers Association.

The Northeast Dairy Producers Association (NEDPA) Conference provides an opportunity for producers and agriservice organizations. For reprints of PRO-DAIRY's *The Manager*, features a progressive agenda and speakers to inspire the Northeast Dairy Industry.

■ March 8 - 9, 2016, Holiday Inn, Liverpool, NY

The Manager, a special section prepared by PRO-DAIRY specialists appears in DairyBusiness East four times a year. In keeping with the PRO-DAIRY mission, *The Manager* helps strengthen the management skills of dairy producers and increase the profitability of the dairy industry. PRO-DAIRY, an educational program begun in 1988, is a joint venture of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and Northeast agriservice organizations. For reprints of PRO-DAIRY's *The Manager*, contact David LaCombe, DairyBusiness Communications, 6437 Collamer Rd, East Syracuse NY 13057. P: 800.334.1904 or 315.703.7979 ext. 235. Email: dlacombe@dairybusiness.com.